kept in view while drawing priority-wise schemes for immediate and effective way to deal with the problems.

Production of Coal

†3460 SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the comprehensive details of total production of coal in the country during the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000, till date;

(b) the target fixed for production of coal during the year 2000-2001;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to achieve the said target; and

(d) the action plan formulated by Government to allocate coal for each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (DR. SMT. RITA VERMA): (a) the details of total production of coal in India during the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given below:—

(*Figures in million tonnes*)

SOURCE	1998-99	1999-2000*
CIL	256.48	260.69
SCCL	27.33	29.56
TISCO, IISCO, DVC CAPTIVE BLOCK & OTHERS	8.46	8.75
TOTAL	292.27	299.00

*Provisional

(b) The target fixed for production of coal for the year 2000-2001 is 308.07 million tonnes.

(c) The steps taken by the Govenment to achieve the target include, *interalia,* starting of new projects and opening of new mines, modernisation of existing mines, and upgradation of technology.

(d) The demand for coal is not assessed State-wise, but sector-wise and for the country as a whole. The total demand assessed by the Planning Commission for the year 2000-2001 is 338.85 million tonnes of coal and 5.02 million

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

tonnes of middlings. Coal companies would endeavour to meet the demand, based on the projections of consumers located, in various states.

Revial Package for BGL

3461. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees (officers and workmen) of Bharat Gold Mines Limited have submitted a revival package to the BIFR;

(b) if so, whether the same has been examined by Government;

(c) whether a hearing has been fixed on 16th May, 2000 by BIFR to examine the suggestions/objections to the show-cause notice for winding up;

(d) if so, whether before a final decision by BIFR, Government had issued an ultimatum to the employees to opt for VRS by 31st March, 2000, failing which they would be liable for retrenchment; and

(e) if so, the reasons for issuing such a directive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (DR. SMT. RITA VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) BIFR has not referred the same to the Government of India for examination.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) is a good will gesture extended by the Government to the employees to exercise their option by a specified date. The Government had made a submission before BIFR that it would have no objection if Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) was wound up under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, (SICA), 1985, and that it was prepared to offer the benefit of VRS to all the employees on its roll as on 31.3.1999, and that the offer of VRS would be kept open till 31.3.2000. Further, the Government intimated BGML, *inter-alia,* about the implications in respect of employees not opting for VRS by the dateline. The intemation was in the nature of a clarificatory letter.